IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS:	Frank G. Belmonte et al.	) PATENT APPLICATION
APPLICATION NO.:	10/713,660	) Group Art Unit: 1625
CONFIRMATION NO.:	9847	)
FILED:	November 14, 2003	) Examiner: Taylor V. Oh
FOR:	STAGED COUNTERCURRENT OXIDATION	) Attorney Docket No.: 37,481

Amendment in Response to Final Office Action Filed under 37 C.F.R. §1.116

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

The Applicants respectfully submit the following amendments, remarks and arguments in order to place the above-referenced application in condition for allowance.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks and Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.